



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

COASTAL HEARING ROOM

Copies of the resolutions and water quality/water rights orders can be obtained by calling (916) 341-5600 or downloading from our website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/.

The video of the Board Meeting is available to view on our website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/video.shtml

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joaquin Esquivel called the meeting to order on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 9:01 a.m. with both a physical meeting location and remote location.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel; Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo; Member Sean Maguire; Member Laurel Firestone; Member Nichole Morgan

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director
Philip Wyels, Assistant Chief Counsel (departed at 9:10 a.m.)
Andy Sawyer, Assistant Chief Counsel (arrived at 9:10 a.m.)
Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director
Karen Mogus, Chief Deputy Director
Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
Marji Arjil, Assistant Clerk to the Board
Susan Reyes, AGPA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Instructions were given in regard to participating in the Remote Meeting.
- The Board meeting is being webcasted and recorded.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025

BOARD MEETING

***Public comments on agenda items will be limited to 5 minutes
or otherwise at the discretion of the Board Chair***

PUBLIC FORUM

(Approximately 30 minutes at the beginning of Board Meeting and any remaining speakers at the call of the Chair)

Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the State Water Resources Control Board's jurisdiction provided the matter is not on the agenda or pending before the State Water Board or any California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

No Action Taken

Commenters

Stacy Vanina, General Public

BOARD BUSINESS

1. The Board will consider adoption of the February 4, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.

Motion: Board Member Morgan moved to adopt the February 4, 2025 Board Meeting minutes

Seconded by: Board Member Firestone

MOTION CARRIED ([February 19, 2025](#))

Aye: Chair Esquivel
Vice Chair D'Adamo
Member Maguire
Member Firestone
Member Morgan

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

2. Update on Water Rights Data Modernization and Measurement and Reporting Regulation.

*Staff Presenting: Erik Ekdahl, Brent Vanderburgh, Jeff Parks, Pablo Ortiz,
Sierra Kennison*

- [Agenda Item](#)

No Action Taken

Commenters

None

DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

3. Consideration of a Proposed Resolution adopting the prioritization of drinking water regulations development for calendar year 2025.

Staff Presenting: Melissa Hall, Darrin Polhemus

- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [Change Sheet #1](#) | [Change Sheet #2](#)

Motion: Board Member Maguire moved to adopt the proposed Resolution with Change Sheet #2

Seconded by: Board Member Morgan

MOTION CARRIED ([Resolution No. 2025-0006](#))

Aye: Chair Esquivel
Vice Chair D'Adamo
Member Maguire
Member Firestone
Member Morgan

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Commenters

Adam Wachtel, General Public

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

4. Board Member Reports.

For full details on each Board Member report, please review the video at [Board Videos | California State Water Resources Control Board](#). It begins at 2:40:35 on the video for the February 19, 2025 Board Meeting.

The Board recessed at 12:55 p.m. until Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joaquin Esquivel called the meeting to order on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 9:01 a.m. with both a physical meeting location and remote location.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel; Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo (departed at 5:30 p.m.); Member Sean Maguire; Member Laurel Firestone; Member Nichole Morgan

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director
Michael Lauffer, Chief Counsel
Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director
Karen Mogus, Chief Deputy Director
Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
Marji Arjil, Assistant Clerk to the Board
Susan Reyes, AGPA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Instructions were given in regard to participating in the Remote Meeting.
- The Board meeting is being webcasted and recorded.

BOARD HEARING

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

5. Consideration of a proposed Resolution to designate the Kern County groundwater subbasin as probationary under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act or an alternative Resolution to continue the hearing.

Staff Presenting: Natalie Stork, Jeevan Jayakody, Austin Poncelet, Anthony Wohletz, Tina Leahy, Ben Brezing (Dept. of Water Resources)

- [Public Notice](#)
- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#) | [Alternative Draft Resolution](#)
- [Final Staff Report Executive Summary](#)
- [Final Staff Report](#)

Motion: Board Member Morgan moved to adopt the proposed alternative Resolution with language changes read into the record by David Rose

Seconded by: Board Member Maguire

MOTION CARRIED ([Resolution No. 2025-0007](#))

Aye: Chair Esquivel
Member Maguire
Member Firestone
Member Morgan

Nay: None

Absent: Vice Chair D'Adamo

Abstain: None

Commenters

Aaron Brieno, Chief of Staff Office of Senator Hurtado

Chad Givens, Elected Mayor of City of Shafter

Octavio Escobedo, Tejon Indians Tribe

Panel 2: Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

Derek Yurosek

Anona Dutton

Christina Lucero

Kait Palys

Katie Duncan

Stephanie Hearn

Abhi Singh

Panel 3: Community Panel (Clean Water Action & Central California Environmental Justice Network)

Mac Glackin, Clean Water Action

Jesús Alonso, Clean Water Action

Angela Islas, Central California Environmental Justice Network

Saul Ruiz, Lost Hills community resident

Anabel Marquez, Shafter community resident

Miguel Neri, Buttonwillow community resident

Commenters

Jose, Shafter Community Member

Luis, Shafter Community Member

Buttonwillow Community Member

Shafter Community Member

Shafter Community Member

Bob Gore, The Gualco Group

Alexandra Biering, California Farm Bureau

Todd Snider, Kern County Farm Bureau/Farmer

Tien Tran, Community Water Center

Laretta Johnson, UC Davis Law School - Small Farmer Water Justice Clinic

Richard F. Garcia, Buttonwillow County Water District

Harmeet Dhindsa, General Public on behalf of himself and Paramjit Dosanjh

Tony Hoag, Homeowner
Annette Tenneboe, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Natalia Ospina, Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment
Chris Martin on behalf of John Yarbrough, Department of Water Resources
Royce Fast, Kern County Water Agency
William McKinnon, Water Audit California
Madonna Lang, Grower
Erick Orellana, Kern County resident
Raul Barraza Jr, Kern County resident
Gail Delihant, Western Growers Association
Jennifer Clary, Clean Water Action
Carmen Garza, Resident from the City of Delano
Nataly Escobedo Garcia, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Luis, Shafter Community Member
Shafter Community Member

Panel 4: Kern Subbasin Water Banking

Ken Minn, Zone 7 Water Agency) on behalf of Ali Elhassan (Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency), Cindy Kao (Santa Clara Valley Water District), Thomas Niesar (Alameda County Water District), & Nina Hawk (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California)

Panel 5: Semitropic Water Storage District GSA

Jason Gianquinto
Susan Paulsen, Exponent, Inc.
Richard Howitt, ERA Economics
Dan Waterhouse

Panel 6: Kern Subbasin Municipalities and Urban Water Purveyors

Raul Barraza Jr., Arvin Community Services District
Kristina Budak, City of Bakersfield
Tamara Johnson, California Water Service
Alberto Martinez, City of Wasco
Michael James, City of Shafter

Panel 7: Kern Fan Banking Projects

Tom McCarthy (Kern County Water Agency Improvement District Number 4) on behalf of Jonathan Parker (Kern Water Bank Authority), Greg Hammett (West Kern Water District) & Michelle Anderson (Kern County Water Agency Pioneer Project)

Panel 8: Henry Miller Water District GSA

Jeof Wyrick on behalf of Dominic Sween & Will Halligan

Panel 9: Wetlands

Ellen Wehr on behalf of Steve Miller, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association
Xerónimo Castañeda, Audubon California
Jeffrey Shu, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ellen Wehr, California Waterfowl Association

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Sessions are not open to the Public

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS OFFICE/ DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

The Board may meet in closed session to deliberate on procedural or substantive decisions to be reached in the proceeding to consider the water right change petition filed by the California Department of Water Resources to add two new points of diversion and rediversion to water right permits 16478, 16479, 16481, and 16482 (Applications 5630, 14443, 14445A, and 17512, respectively) for the State Water Project associated with the Delta Conveyance Project. (This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3).)

The Board met in Closed Session on the above item.

The Board may meet in closed session to deliberate on procedural or substantive decisions to be reached in the proceeding to consider the petition for partial assignment of state-filed Application 25517, accompanying water right Application 25517X01, and petitions for release from priority of state-filed Applications 25513, 25514, 25517 (unassigned portion), 22235, 23780, and 23781 in favor of water right Application 25517X01 filed by the Sites Project Authority. (This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3).)

The Board did not meet in Closed Session on the above item.

OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL

The Board will meet in closed session to discuss the status of and receive legal advice concerning a complaint filed against the Board pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000(d) *et seq.*, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's nondiscrimination regulation, at 40 C.F.R. Part 7, pertaining to the Board's water quality standards setting in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed (EPA File No. 01RNO-23-R9). (This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (e).)

The Board did not meet in Closed Session on the above item.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!

Unless otherwise specified, submittal of written comments **must be received by 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on February 13, 2025 and will not be accepted after that time.**

Submittal of electronic PowerPoint presentations **must be received by 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on February 13, 2025 and will not be accepted after that time.**

Submittals are to be sent via e-mail to the Clerk to the Board at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line, **02/19-20/2025 BOARD MEETING – ITEM # (fill in bolded subject from appropriate item).**

If you have questions about the agenda, or if you do not have internet access and need a telephone number to participate in the meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Board at (916) 341-5600 prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to request a copy of public comments submitted on an agenda item, please send a request to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, identifying the Board meeting date, and agenda item by name and number.

Agenda and items will be available electronically at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/index.shtml

*Items on the uncontested items calendar may be removed at the request of any Board Member or person. If an item is removed from the uncontested items calendar, it will only be voted on at this meeting if the Board accepts the staff recommendation for the agenda item. Otherwise, the item will be continued to a subsequent board meeting to allow input by interested persons.

Video broadcast of meetings will be available at: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>.
An alternate live-stream broadcast will also be available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/>

LANGUAGE SERVICES

For oral interpretation, written translation, or sign language services, please call (916) 341-5254 or e-mail: opp-languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov (at least 7 calendar days before the date of the Board meeting).

ACCESSIBILITY AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The State Water Board is committed to making its meetings accessible consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations. Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. In addition, persons requiring reasonable modification or accommodation for disabilities should promptly (preferably at least 7 days before the meeting) contact the Clerk at

board.clerk@waterboards.ca.gov to initiate a request for reasonable modification or accommodation.